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**NEW JERSEY FOOD COUNCIL RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE AND RECOVERY PLAN**

Trenton...Today, New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine delivered a message on his vision to provide economic assistance and recovery for New Jersey residents and business. New Jersey Food Council President Linda M. Doherty stated:

“As food distribution is a significant industry that employs more than 250,000 workers in the Garden State, we are encouraged by the strong and deliberate signals announced by Governor Corzine today to stabilize the economy, increase food assistance for those in need, and embrace business incentives for supermarket growth and job creation in NJ communities.

“As an industry that offers Check Out Hunger participation at the grocery stand for New Jersey consumers and supports food rescue programs that donate unsold food daily to local food banks and feeding assistance programs, we agree with the Governor's bold call to action for other business groups and residents to help support those in need during these tough economic times.

“Additionally, the Governor's recognition to improve access and provide resources to encourage food stores in urban communities will expand supermarkets, provide healthy food choices for local residents and create hundreds of good paying, quality jobs with health benefits in the very community being served. Incentives for supermarket expansion and growth offers new streams of revenue that are reinvested back into the neighborhood and supports the residents who live there.

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“Members of the New Jersey Food Council are committed to working with Governor Jon Corzine on these important food assistance initiatives and supermarket expansion efforts in urban communities throughout New Jersey. We applaud the Governor for recognizing the food business is the lifeline of the state’s health and well being and for his serious effort to make New Jersey a more business friendly state.”

The New Jersey Food Council is a business trade association representing New Jersey supermarkets, independent grocers, convenience stores and food manufacturers, wholesalers and brokers who service the food distribution network and feed nine million people a day in New Jersey.

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